

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-115 have been canceled and new claims 116-124 proposed. It is believed that these claims are consistent with the election made in response to the restriction requirement in this application and applicants continue to elect the species of plant as the examined organism.

The claims as presently proposed are supported by the specification. In claims 116 and 121 it is required that the SARMS and SSRMs be present in equimolar amounts or equal abundance which is supported on page 23 of the specification at lines 35, *et seq.* Claims 116 and 120 require the SARMS and SSRMs to consist of about 20-30 nucleotides, which is supported on page 4, at lines 6-12. Claim 116 requires that the SRM sequences are complementary to a region of a target gene that is silenced, which is supported on page 2 of the specification at lines 12-20. Claim 120 requires that the SARMS can base pair with a target RNA, which is supported on page 2 at lines 30-33.

It will be noted that the claims may include, but do not require, double-stranded forms of the short RNA's administered.

It is believed that the claims are free of wording that has raised objections of new matter in claims previously proposed. Examination on the merits is now respectfully requested.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket No. 616292000111.

Respectfully submitted,

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